

**AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the specification by marked up replacement paragraph(s) as follows.

Please replace the paragraph under the title, "CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS," at page 1, lines 7-16, with the following:

--The present application is related to the following co-pending applications, which are filed on even date herewith and incorporated herein by reference:

- (1) U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/723,482 ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ (~~Docket No. RIC00033~~), entitled "Network Access System Including a Programmable Access Device Having Distributed Service Control;" now U.S. Patent No. 7,046,680, issued April 26, 2006;
- (2) U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/723,481 ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ (~~Docket No. RIC00042~~), entitled "Programmable Access Device for a Distributed Network Access System;" and
- (3) U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/723,501 ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ (~~Docket No. RIC00043~~), entitled "External Processor for a Distributed Network Access System;"--